

THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION
SIXTH COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM 105: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

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S T A T E M E N T

by

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8 October 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor at this session, allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your appointment and to wish you every success in your work, in which you can count on the full support of my delegation. Also, let me point out that my delegation has aligned itself with the statement made by the representative of the European Union. In my statement I shall, therefore, focus on some points of this agenda item from the national perspective.

At the outset, I would like to recall the Third biennial review of the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that addressed the important issues of, and the progress in, the implementation of the Strategy that continues to be the core framework of the international community in fighting terrorism. The adoption, by acclamation, of a new resolution of the General Assembly has once again sent a clear signal that the international consensus against terrorism remains strong.

Serbia wishes to reiterate once again its full support to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to all the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. When it comes to fighting terrorism, the guidelines contained in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy are of paramount importance for us. Especially the part that refers to measures aimed at strengthening international cooperation.

The Government of Serbia has always unequivocally and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes.

Serbia is a party to the overwhelming majority of international conventions against terrorism and is doing its utmost to fully implement relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and, in particular, Resolution 1373 (2001). With the same commitment, we have joined the efforts of the OSCE, Council of Europe and the European Union to eliminate this global scourge that no cause can justify.

Having set an ambitious reform agenda with the membership in the European Union as its strategic priority, the Government of Serbia is making special efforts directed at strengthening its national capacities, legislation and the training of local stakeholders to implement standards which contribute to the development of national counter terrorism plans. In this context, I would like to inform that we are in the final stage of the preparation for the start of the joint project with the EU and UNODC, aimed at strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in Serbia. Having in mind that the Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of the UNODC is the primary global provider of legal technical assistance relating to the international legal regime against terrorism, we have developed a Programme of activities jointly with the European Commission.

The initiative will be further elaborated in close cooperation with EU Member State representations, EU Member State experts and with the relevant EU institutions. Let me emphasize that relevant provisions and strategic commitments in EU documents will be taken into account. The primary aim of the initiative is to build the capacities of relevant authorities and to develop a comprehensive counter-terrorism legal framework in the Republic of Serbia to effectively combat terrorism and to strengthen the efficient inter-agency cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

Furthermore, my country has laid special emphasis on the need to step up national efforts to enhance bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation aimed at strengthening the common front in the fight against terrorism. In this context let me point out some of the activities of the Republic of Serbia.

Last year the Republic of Serbia hosted a workshop on countering terrorist financing for SEE Member States organized jointly by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI Center) and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), in cooperation with UNODC aimed at strengthening the regional response to the serious challenges and threat to international security caused by the links between the financing of terrorist activities and organized crime. Also, I would like to inform you that in April Serbia adopted the National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Means of Delivery. There is an ongoing public debate regarding the Draft Law on freezing terrorist assets and the formal procedure for its adoption is expected soon. By the way of adoption of this Draft Law, Serbia will formally have a mechanism in place to detect and freeze assets of persons and entities designated by UNSC.

Finally Mr. Chairman, in connection with our immediate task here, let me reiterate that we will continue to actively support the finalization of a comprehensive international convention against terrorism as soon as possible, bringing the long-lasting negotiating process to a successful end.

Thank you.